Theſe points being gained, there is no doubt but much room is left for improvement, and that will be progreſſive as in all other machines: but the reſult of my experiments I now lay before the public; where, I hope, they will meet with a candid inveſtigation, and the utility of ſmall canals be deliberately conſidered.

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TREATISE

ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF

CANAL NAVIGATION.

CHAP. I.

OF THE ORIGIN AND PROGRESSIVE IMPROVEMENT OF CANALS.

IN contemplating the infinite operations of Art, and reflecting on their progreſſive improvement, it is an inexhauſtible fund of amuſement to trace them back to the time when genius called forth the mental powers of our ſpecies, and conducted humanity from the wilds of ſavage life to the cultivated plains of ſcience and refinement.

Ever anxious to diſſipate the cloud which intercepts our view of remote times, we endeavour to diſcover the origin of the ſubjects we inveſtigate, and to trace them through their various meandrings; pleaſed, if we find improvement cheer the way, and induſtry diffuſe her bleſſings through ſociety.